

With the Auditors Certificate

SOUTH DARLEY

Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ending Dec. 31st, 1913,

BY

J. LYON FLETCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.



MATLOCK:

GEO. HODGKINSON, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER.

BANK HOUSE,
WINSTER,
3rd Feb., 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
South Darley Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting for your approval my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in your district for the year ending on December 31st, 1913.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Your District is a hilly one and has an elevation of from 450 to 900 feet above sea level. The soil throughout is light and porous, permitting of free natural drainage everywhere.

The subsoil consists of a mass of Carboniferous limestone continuous with the great mass of the Peak, of which it forms an outlying portion; lying immediately above the limestone in the lower part of the district are some thin shale beds.

<i>The population at the Census of 1911 was</i>	...	809
„ „ <i>estimated to middle of 1912 was</i>		819
„ „ „ „ <i>1913 „</i>		830
<i>The number of inhabited houses is</i>	205
<i>The average number of persons per house is equal to</i>		4·04.

Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The chief occupations are lead mining, farming and quarrying.

As was the case in the previous year, the workers have been fully employed and wage rates have been good.

No deaths are attributable to Industrial Diseases, nor has any death due to this class of disease occurred during the past 18 years.

Poor Law and Relief.

For poor law purposes the district is included in the Bakewell Union.

Gratuitous treatment for poor persons in your district is also provided at the Whitworth Cottage Hospital, the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary at Derby, and the Devonshire Hospital at Buxton, all of which institutions accept suitable cases for treatment and should receive the support and encouragement of your people.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply—this is excellent—ample in amount and of exceptional purity.

181 houses are now connected up to your Council's mains. 17 new connections being made during 1913. There are now no houses in the district without a water supply within 100 yards' distance.

The District Rate stands at $3/8$ in the pound.

Rivers and Streams.

I have had no complaints about the state of the brook at Darley Bridge which is now clean and free flowing.

Sewerage.

I can only repeat what I have said in former reports. I am emphatically of opinion that your district, owing to its natural features and its sparseness of population, does not require a regular sewerage scheme, small or large. But should there be any further extension of the water closet system your council will be compelled to face this expensive undertaking.

Excrement Disposal.

The district is for all practical purposes entirely a Privy Midden one, and there is no public scavenging. I would again urge your Council to adopt some scheme of Public Scavenging for Wensley and Darley Bridge. The expense entailed would not be great and the resulting benefit would I am sure be appreciated by all.

At the present time the state of many of these middens tends to be neglected and often enough from various circumstances it is impossible for house-holders to pay regular attention to their emptying and cleansing, and unless this is done Privy Middens are a great danger to Public Health being breeding places for all manner of foul diseases.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The Annual Report of your Nuisance Inspector gives full details of this work.

Briefly summarized we find that quite apart from the special work entailed under the Housing and Town Planning Act 1909, Sec 17, your Inspector has served 130 Informal Notices in respect of nuisances found to exist by him. By his action he secured the abatement of 105 of these nuisances. In no instance was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no places of this description in your district.

Schools.

The Public Elementary School at Cross Green, the only one in the district, is in good sanitary order and has a water supply laid on.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

This work is carried out by Dr. T. Fentem, who has had nothing to report to me in connection with his work.

Milk Supply.

The number of Cow Sheds and Dairies on the Register is 16.

The number of Cows kept in winter is approximately 207.

The Air Space per Cow in the Cow Sheds is from 450 cubic feet upwards.

The milk consumed locally is the produce of the district and in addition considerable quantities are sent to the Manchester and other markets.

No cases of Tubercular Udder has occurred during 1913. No samples of milk were taken for analysis.

Public Bakehouses.

There are no such places in the district.

Slaughter Houses.

There is one in the district which has been regularly inspected and is kept in good order.

Meat Inspection.

Your Council has no arrangement for carrying this out.

Housing Inspection.

The systematic scheme of House to House Inspection, under the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, begun late in 1912, has been completed. 136 houses were dealt with during 1913. The results of this Inspection are summarized in a Tabular statement of work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, a copy of which Table is enclosed with my report.

The notes in this table are made up from notes taken by your Sanitary Inspector and myself at the actual time of Inspection.

Our work disclosed the disquieting fact that over one third, to be exact 43 out of the 130 houses inspected, were found to be defective in various ways, perhaps the prevailing condition being dampness from leaky roofing, absence of damp-proof course in walls or defective foundations, in some instances houses are built into the Hillside without removal of soil behind.

The prevalence of Rheumatism in your district is to be accounted for by the facts here disclosed. Your Council should take these disclosures to heart and endeavour to make it a "*sine qua non*" that all house property under their Authority be put in proper order in this respect.

Other noticeable defects were want of proper light and ventilation. This defect is common to all old houses and can generally be easily remedied. In all cases your Council should insist upon its being taken in hand. In some more recently erected property in Wensley I was surprised to find no accommodation provided for food storage. This constitutes a serious defect and is often difficult to remedy without expensive structural alterations. Your Council should prohibit the erection in future of any cottage property which does not contain provision for food storage.

It becomes therefore a matter of the utmost importance that your Council should adopt Building Bye-laws bearing on the various defects which our inspection has disclosed and aim at their avoidance in the future.

In the meantime your Council have taken the needful steps to meet the conditions existing. Notices for the remedying of the defects found in the 43 houses have been served on the various property owners concerned, and I am pleased to observe that in 19 cases the work required has been done to the satisfaction of your Sanitary Inspector, in 24 cases work is in progress. No closing orders were made, but it was necessary to condemn two houses as unfit for habitation. One of these houses was untenanted at the time of Inspection. The other is occupied by an elderly couple who would have no place to go if they were turned out, so your Council quite rightly have left them undisturbed.

There will certainly arise out of the results of our inspection the question of your Council undertaking the building of some Cottages in Wensley where there has been disclosed the want of such accommodation. Provided that the Central Authorities at Whitehall will make arrangements to make building possible without burdening the Ratepayers, which could be done by the granting of loans on favourable terms, I am strongly in favor of your Council taking such work in hand at an early date.

Factories and Workshops.

There are no places of this description in your district.

Sanitary Administration.

Again I have to express to you the extent of my indebtedness to your Sanitary Inspector. He is indeed a tower of strength and altogether an admirable colleague to work with, sparing neither time, expense, nor trouble in the performance of his duties.

Your Council have not adopted any new adoptive Act during 1913.

Control over Infectious Disease.

The District has been quite free from Infectious Disease during the year.

Tubercular Disease.

No case of Tubercular Disease, pulmonary or otherwise, has been notified during the past year, nor has any death been certified as due to this class of disease.

In connection with Tubercular Disease it may be noted that the County Council have established a Dispensary at Matlock for the treatment by the administration of Tuberculin, of cases of Tuberculosis.

This Dispensary is in charge of Dr. Perrin Brown, one of the County Council Medical Officers in the Tuberculosis Department.

Should any case of Tubercular disease occur in your locality it will be open for the Doctor in attendance to obtain Dr. Brown's help by consultation or otherwise, an opportunity which I hope will be made use of should occasion arise.

The tables issued by the L.G.B., number 1 to 5, copies of which I enclose, contain the complete Vital Statistics of the district for this year and the five preceding years.

The Birth Rate for 1913 is equal to 21·9 per thousand.

The Death Rate for 1913 is equal to 7.6 per thousand.

Both rates are slightly higher than the corresponding figures for 1912.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYON FLETCHER.

